

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A film covered battery comprising:
a battery element having a positive electrode and a negative electrode opposing each other, said battery element having a first side and a second side in a thickness direction thereof;
a flexible casing comprised of two halves for sandwiching said battery element from said first side and said second side both sides in a thickness direction of said battery element to seal said battery element, said casing including a recess in one of said halves for receiving said battery element on one said first side of said battery element; and
lead terminals connected respectively to said positive electrode and said negative electrode of said battery element which has a first surface on the first side and a second surface on the second side and extending from said casing, each said lead terminal being connected to said battery element at a position inside of both surfaces said first surface and said second surface of said battery element in the thickness direction thereof.

2. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery element is a laminate battery element which has a plurality of positive electrodes and a plurality of negative electrodes which are alternately laminated, and each of said positive electrodes and said negative electrodes comprises a tab protruding therefrom, wherein the tabs of said positive electrodes and the tabs of said negative electrodes are collectively joined, respectively, to form said battery element with charge collectors associated respectively with

said positive electrode and said negative electrode, each said charge collectors being positioned inside of ~~both surfaces~~said first surface and said second surface of said battery element ~~in the thickness direction thereof~~, said lead terminals being connected respectively to said charge collectors.

3. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 2, wherein said battery element has a thickness of 3 mm or more, and each of said charge collectors is positioned 1 mm or more inside of ~~both surfaces~~said first surface and said second surface of said battery element ~~in the thickness direction thereof~~.

4. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein the recess formed in said casing has a depth which is substantially equal to the height from the surface of a portion of said lead terminal extending from said casing to the first surface of said battery element ~~received in said recess~~.

5. (original): The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein each said lead terminal is bent in a crank shape in a direction opposite to said half of said casing formed with said recess.

6. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 5, wherein a leading end of each said bent lead terminal is positioned ~~outside of~~beyond the ~~other~~second surface of said battery element ~~opposite to said recess in the thickness direction of said battery element~~.

7. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 6, wherein the distance from the surface of the leading end of each said bent lead terminal opposite to said recess to the ~~other~~second surface of said battery element ~~opposite to said recess~~ is 1 mm or more.

8. (currently amended): The film covered battery according to claim 2, wherein: each said lead terminal is bent in a crank shape in a direction opposite to said half of said casing formed with said recess, and
said casing includes a protrusion formed on the other half thereof in a region opposing said charge collector, said other half being located opposite to said one half formed with said recess across said battery element, said protrusion being substantially equal to the height from the ~~other~~second surface of said battery element ~~opposite to said recess~~ to said charge collector.

9. (original): The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said positive lead terminal and said negative lead terminal are connected to said battery element on sides of said battery element different from each other.

10. (original): The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery element is a chemical battery element or a capacitor element.